

**Agenda Item 9.2.2: Regional Guidelines for The Effective Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Pacific (Pacific Access and Benefit Sharing Guidelines)**

**Purpose of paper**

1. To request the Executive Board to endorse implementation of the *Regional Guidelines for The Effective Implementation of The Nagoya Protocol in The Pacific* (Pacific Access and Benefit Sharing Guidelines).

**Background**

2. SPREP is currently executing a GEF funded Regional Access and Benefit Sharing Project implemented by UNEP. The project supports Pacific Island countries in ratifying the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and implementing key measures to make the Protocol operational in the region.
3. As part of the activities under the project an assessment was undertaken to measure capacities, gaps, and challenges in implementing the Nagoya Protocol in the Pacific. Consequently, an important issue identified in the assessment was challenges in meeting domestic level compliance measures by countries in the region. These challenges are lack of technical capacity to develop administrative, policy, and legislative measures to enforce compliance requirements of the Protocol.
4. Furthermore, Pacific Island countries have immense challenge in monitoring and reporting the access and utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge under the Nagoya Protocol.
5. With further financial assistance from EU ACP MEAs 3 Project, the project hired consultants to draft the guidelines to help Pacific Island countries meet compliance requirements under the Protocol.
6. The Pacific Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Guidelines (refer WP9.2.2/Att.1) were launched at the Dialogue on Traditional Knowledge for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific in Suva, Fiji in May 2022.

**Recommendation**

7. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
  - 1) **Endorse** the Pacific Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Guidelines and support its implementation

23 April 2022